



4 November 2003

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Mokuhinia/Moku'ula Ecosystem Restoration, Maui, Hawaii

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject project.
2. Points of Major Interest and Facts.

a. The Mokuhinia/Moku'ula Ecosystem Restoration project is in the reconnaissance phase and is authorized under Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. The objective of the project is to restore wetlands that previously existed at the site. This wetland was known as Loko o Mokuhinia, a 17-acre pond that surrounded an island called Moku'ula. The area is now filled fastlands that is primarily used for a County park. The non-Federal sponsor is the County of Maui.

b. The site is historically significant because the home of Hawaii's royalty and highest ali'i were located in Pakala, an area adjacent to, and north of Moku'ula. King Kamehameha III ruled the Hawaiian Islands from his residential complex at Moku'ula. Each of the Hawaiian sovereigns descended from parents tied to Pakala. Moku'ula and Mokuhinia are listed in both the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

c. The primary predicted Section 206 outputs would be wetlands that could provide habitat for the Hawaiian Stilt, Hawaiian Duck, Hawaiian Coot and Hawaiian Moorhen. All the above species are endangered species and endemic to Hawaii. Other tangible outputs would include mullet, tadpoles, mosquito fish and other organisms that rely on wetland ecosystems during some or all of their life cycles.

d. Preparation of a Preliminary Restoration Plan (PRP) is underway to determine if Federal interest is warranted in proceeding with detailed investigations. The PRP will be finalized in December 2003.

3. Congressional Interest. There is minimal congressional interest in this project at this time.